

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0669

INFO AMCONSUL NAPLES

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AMCONSUL MILAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: FANFANI CALLS FOR CLOSER PARTY COORDINATION OF
ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

1. RESPONDING TO A STATEMENT ISSUED BY FANFANI EARLIER IN THE DAY CALLING FOR "A PROFOUND EXAMINATION OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND THE CHOICES TO OVERCOME IT", DC PARTY SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI BROADENED THE AGENDA OF THE OCT 18 DC DIRECTORATE MEETING ON THE ABORTION QUESTION TO INCLUDE A DISCUSSION OF THE DC'S MONETARY AND ECONOMIC PROGRAM. FOLLOWING A HALF-HOUR PRESENTATION BY ANDREOTTI IN WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER REVIEWED WELL-KNOWN HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS ECONOMIC PROGRAM, THE DIRECTORATE UNANIMOUSLY PASSED A RESOLUTION OF FULL SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS. ALTHOUGH A TEXT OF ANDREOTTI'S SPEECH IS NOT AVAILABLE, THE PRIME MINISTER REPORTEDLY SAID THAT WHILE HE WAS DISPOSED TO ACCEPT CORRECTIVE MODIFICATIONS OF PARTICULAR MEASURES, HE WOULD NOT TOLERATE QUESTIONING OF THE AUSTERITY PROGRAM AS A WHOLE. TO DO SO WOULD CAUSE THE GOVERNMENT TO FAIL IN ITS OBJECTIVE OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY. IN THAT CASE, HE--ANDREOTTI COULD BUT NOT DRAW THE CONSEQUENCES AND RESIGN.

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2. COMMENT: WHAT ELSE IS NEW? THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED DC NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION UNANIMOUSLY VOTED ANDREOTTI A SIMILAR MEASURE OF "FULL SOLIDARITY". AS COMMENTATORS POINT OUT, HOWEVER, FANFANI'S INDIRECT CRITICISM HAD A DEFINITE PURPOSE. ALTHOUGH FANFANI DID NOT ATTEND THE DIRECTORATE MEETING, HE LET IT BE KNOWN THAT HE (AND PRESUMABLY OTHERS ON THE CENTER-RIGHT) WERE DISSATISFIED WITH THE PRO-FORMA NATURE OF THE DEBATE ON THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC AT THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING. HE CALLED FOR CLOSER COORDINATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES WITH THE PARTY'S LEADERSHIP. TO OBSERVERS, FANFANI'S MEANING WAS CLEAR; TO CONSULT LESS WITH THE PCI AND MORE CLOSELY WITH THE PARTY LEADERSHIP. VOLPE

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